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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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SECRETARY CHAPMAN ISSUES 1952 ALASKA FISHING REGULATIONS

Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today that new regulations for the protection of the commercial fisheries of Alaska during the 1952 fishing season were signed on February 11.

In announcing the changes, the Secretary stated that the proposal made at the hearings to require an opening in trap leads resulted in such conflicting testimony that the matter has been dropped pending further investigation by the Fish and Wildlife Service during the coming season.

Changes of principal interest include a 2-day fishing season per week in Cook Inlet; a later season extending from August 4 to August 30 in Prince William Sound; a limited early season for reds and chums in Southeastern Alaska from June 23 to July 5; and a prohibition against personal use fishing by commercial fishermen during the season.

Highlights of the numerous changes are as follows:

The prohibition against fishing within 500 yards of any dam, fish ladder, etc. has been reduced to 300 feet and now applies to all artificial obstructions in streams. A new section prohibiting the taking of salmon by snagging in waters not open to commercial fishing has been added this year in response to popular demand.

Commercial fishermen are restricted from fishing for personal use, except in compliance with commercial fishing regulations, within 48 hours of any commercial season. This does not apply to anyone not a commercial fisherman.

Yukon - Kuskokwim Area

The Kuskokwim River has been closed to commercial fishing at the request of local residents who require the entire runs for personal use and for dog feed.

The commercial season on the Yukon River has been extended throughout the month of August to permit a limited coho fishery.

Bristol Bay Area

As previously announced, the proposed curtailment in length of drift gill nets in Bristol Bay has been dropped and the length remains at 150 fathoms for drift gill nets and 50 fathoms for set nets. The weekly closed period in the Bristol Bay area has been set at 84 hours in anticipation of an increase in gear. Boats in this area are no longer required to be consecutively numbered. Each operator, however,

will be required to report catches by boats and set nets daily. Persons fishing for personal use in 1952 will not be required to notify the Service of their intention to do so as was the case last year.

Alaska Peninsula Area

In the Alaska Peninsula area, outer Canoe Bay has been opened to fishing during that part of the regular season prior to July 18, and a fall season has been established in Izembek Bay from August 20 to September 5.

Chignik -- Kodiak Area

In the Chignik and Kodiak areas, the opening date is June 16, and fishing in both areas is prohibited with drift gill nets. In the Alitak district of the Kodiak Island area, a minimum escapement of 250,000 red salmon is required, as measured at the Fish and Wildlife Service weirs.

Cook Inlet Area

In the Cook Inlet area, the season has been extended to August 12 in all sections to permit fishing for pinks. The weekly closed period has been extended to 120 hours to offset the tremendous influx of gear anticipated in the drift gill net fishery. This is in lieu of further curtailment of gear. In addition, tenders taking fish out of the area will be required to report the number of fish on board before leaving, so that the Fish and Wildlife Service can maintain up-to-the-minute statistics on the catches. The drastically extended weekly closed period will be relaxed if the anticipated amount of drift gill net gear is not realized, and in any case it will not apply after July 28. A number of additional streams on the Kenai Peninsula have been closed to all fishing because of a tremendous increase in fishing for personal use from the new highway through the area.

Prince William Sound -- Copper River -- Bering River Area

The season in Prince William Sound has been changed to extend from August 14 to August 30, except in the Eshamy section which closes on the traditional date of August 22. In addition, the closed season on Dungeness crab fishing in inside waters has been extended to September 10, and fishing for razor clams for personal use is prohibited from July 1 to August 15. In the Copper River area, the weekly closed period is 84 hours a week, with the summer season extending from July 10 to September 18, inclusive. The extended weekly closed period will not apply after August 10. In the Bering River area, the seasons and weekly closed period have been adjusted to coincide with those in the adjacent Copper River area.

Yakutat Area

In the Yakutat area, the seasons have been advanced in Dry Bay to June 1, and delayed in Situk-Ahrnklin Inlet to July 1. A minimum escapement of 100,000 red salmon is required at the Situk River weir.

Southeastern Alaska Area

In Southeastern Alaska, the general seasons are from June 23 to July 5, from August 4 to August 30, and from October 6 to October 11. The seasons in all gill

net districts of Southeastern Alaska have been adjusted to open on June 18 and extend to September 30. The weekly closed period for gill netting has been extended to include the time from 6 a.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Monday, but does not apply on the Stikine River after July 19. This applies to the northern section of the Western district, Taku Inlet, Port Snettisham, and the Stikine River. The eastern side of Stephens Passage has been reopened to fishing on the basis of relatively good escapements there. In arriving at the seasonal restrictions for Southeastern Alaska, it was recognized that the runs normally are later in the Prince of Wales Island streams, and that some adjustment might have to be made to permit fishing after August 30 if good runs appear. Prompt changes of this nature are provided for by a delegation of authority to responsible field officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service to extend or curtail fishing seasons to meet conditions as they occur.

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